NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS REPORT

9451

On the Correlation of Spectral Irradiances as Determined through the Use of Prism and Filter Spectroradiometric Techniques

by

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National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C.

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On the Correlation of Spectral Irradiances as
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I. INTRODUCTION

The methods presently employed at the National Bureau of Standards for measuring the spectral irradiances of various sources over the solar spectrum consist of comparing the spectral irradiance of the source under investigation to that of an NBS standard of spectral irradiance. — Two sets of instrumentation 2, one based on a conventional monochromator and the other a system employing narrow band-passinterference filters to isolate the radiant energy into discrete wavelengths have been set up and independently used in the determination of the spectral irradiances of a number of sources.

In recent years, considerable interest has developed in the methods and techniques employed in the accurate measurement of the spectral energy distribution of various lamp, or arc sources—in particular, over the solar spectrum. The methods principally employed consist of using either: (1) a standard of spectral irradiance, or of spectral radiance — in conjunction with a conventional monochromator, (2) a standard of spectral irradiance, or of spectral radiance along with a set of narrow band-pass interference filters and photoelectric detectors, or (3) a thermal detector which is calibrated through the use of a standard of total irradiance — the conjunction with a set of medium to wide band-pass filters. It is also possible to determine the spectral radiance of tungsten-filament lamps over a limited spectral range by using the published values for the emissivity of tungsten — along with a knowledge of the brightness temperature at a particular wavelength — or over the visible range, to calculate the spectral radiant intensity from a knowledge of the luminous intensity and the color temperature.

Variations in the above methods 12.13/have been made and information has been obtained on the energy distribution of a number of sources. However, little information is available on the absolute correlation of results obtained through the use of two or more of the above methods.

II. Prism Spectroradiometer (Instrumentation)

As shown in Figure 1, the prime component of the "conventional" spectroradiometer is the quartz double-prism monochromator. The use of the double-prism instrument reduces the scattered flux to a minimum and also offers a relatively high degree of resolution. The monochromator is light in weight and compact enabling it to be mounted on a rotary turntable. Thus, the instrument can be rotated to view first one source and then another, one of which is a standard of spectral irradiance. The use of infrasil quartz prisms allows the instrument to be used over the entire spectral range of interest.

In this instrument a single wavelength drum is geared with linkage controls which rotate the two prisms making possible a slow continuous scan through the spectrum. A 3-speed reversible synchronous motor drive has been constructed and geared to the wavelength drum. During each revolution of the wavelength drum three unevenly spaced contacts built into the mechanical drive produce wavelength index marks on the recorder chart. The wavelength calibration of the instrument is performed through the use of known emission lines of various arc lamps.

Since the detectors used with the setup vary significantly in sensitivity over their receiving surfaces and the transmittance of the monochromator varies over its optical aperture, an integrating sphere is placed at the entrance slit of the instrument in order to make sure that the detector always views the same "source." The sphere which is 3 inches in diameter has a circular entrance port (0.75 inch in diameter) and a rectangular (0.75 in by 0.25 in) exit port. The entrance port is situated far enough off the normal to the exit port that it cannot be seen by the detector.

A number of sphere coatings were examined for relative efficiency with the resultant use of MgO reagent grade powder. 14 The powder is applied to the inner surface of the sphere by merely pressing the powder on the sphere surface by hand and then smoothing over with a fine camel's hair brush. Although the coating is rather fragile, the MgO powder-coated sphere was found to be a factor of at least 2 greater in efficiency than the other sphere coatings tested over the spectral range of about 2.0 to 2.5 and equal to, or greater in efficiency than the other coatings over the remainder of the solar spectrum.

Although the reflectance of the MgO powder is quite high (about 98%) 14/, the actual efficiency of the integrating sphere as used with the setup is quite low. The presence of the sphere at the entrance slit of the monochromator reduces the flux as seen by the detector by a factor of at least 1000. Therefore, the detectors and amplifying system must be very sensitive in order to obtain satisfactory results—especially over the UV range from 250 nm to 300 nm and in the infrared beyond 1.5 microns.

Two detectors are employed to cover the entire spectral range from 0.25 to 2.5 microns. An EMI type 9558 QA photomultiplier mounted in a coolable (193°K) housing is used from 0.25µ to 0.8µ, and a 2-mm by 10-mm PbS cell also cooled to 193°K is used from about 0.65 to 2.5 microns. The cooling of the photomultiplier results in an increase in detectivity of about 2 to 3, whereas the detectivity of the cooled PbS cell is a factor of 50 greater than the room temperature PbS cell previously used. Both of the detector housings are constructed to permit either one to be rigidly mounted at the exit slit of the prism instrument. Both horizontal and vertical slots provided on separate mounting plates enable the detectors to be positioned for greatest sensitivity.

Various amplifying systems were tested not only for optimal signal-to-noise ratios, but also for stability and convenience in actual use. The highest signal-to-noise ratios were obtained by using the lock-in type amplifiers. 15,16 Of those examined, the Brower Laboratory Model 129 lock-in amplifier was found to be superior with respect to stability. In actual use the incident flux is chopped at 33 cps and the output of the amplifier is fed directly to a strip-chart recorder which can be operated at a chart speed of 360 inches/hour. The relatively fast chart speed (360 inches/hour) is especially helpful when reducing data obtained on sources containing a number of emission spectra.

In an attempt to reduce stray radiation effects to a minumum, a cylindrical shield (4 1/2 inches in length and 4 1/2 inches in diameter) with a flat black interior surface is mounted to the integrating sphere directly in front of the entrance aperture. The front end of the shield is removable and, depending on the geometry involved, a diaphragm having the appropriate size opening is used. In all cases, however, care must be taken that the limiting aperture of the system is the entrance port of the integrating sphere.

When the spectral irradiance of the standard lamp is compared with that of the source under investigation, large differences in the majority of cases exist between the irradiances of the two sources. These differences can range up to a few orders of magnitude and usually vary with wavelength. Therefore, either a linearity check of the detection system must be performed, or some means of accurately attenuating the more intense source to a value roughly equivalent to that of the other source must be employed.

In our case, it was found both convenient and accurate to use neutral density screens as a means of either performing a linearity check on the detection system, or as a means of obtaining "equivalent" irradiances. The transmittances of the screens were determined through the use of a set of sector disks calibrated by the Length Measurement Section at NBS--with the screens positioned exactly as used. The screens (3" x 3") are placed directly over the opening of the cylindrical shield by sliding the screens into a set of grooves mounted on the shield's diaphragm.

III. Prism Spectroradiometer Measurements

When measurements with the prism instrument are made, the standard of spectral irradiance is placed at a distance of either 50 or 30 cm from the entrance port of the sphere. In most cases a standard calibrated for irradiance at 30 cm is used in order to obtain higher irradiances which are required in the UV and IR for satisfactory signal-to-noise ratios. The spectrometer, along with its auxiliary components, is then rotated to a pre-set position and the source under investigation is then aligned. Measurements are made on each source (standard and unknown) by continuously scanning over the spectral range of each detector. Usually, at least two sets* of curves are obtained on each source.

It is then possible to plot the irradiance of the unknown source as a function of wavelength by reading the data at as many wavelengths as are needed to give a good representation of the "shape" of the irradiance curve. That is, when determining the spectral irradiance of a "line" source, the irradiance is computed every 2 nm in the ultraviolet where the resolution of the monochromator is relatively good (about 1 - 2 nm), every 4 nm in the visible (resolution about 4 - 6 nm), every 10 nm in the IR out to about 1.5 where the monochromator's resolution becomes increasingly less (from 10 - 50 nm) and every 20 nm from 1.5 to 2.5 c.

By using the irradiance values at these wavelengths and the actual recorder tracings, the spectral irradiance of the unknown source is determined.

The time required to reduce the data is significantly reduced by tabulating the recorder deflection, amplifier gain setting, and the transmittance for each source directly on Fortran coding forms. A typical computer printout for a particular source (BRF-1) over the UV and visible range is shown in Table I. The defining equation for determining the spectral irradiance E_2 at wavelength λ (nm) is given as:

$$E_2 = \frac{E_1 D G \tau_S}{D_S G_S \tau}$$
 (1)

where E_1 = Spectral irradiance of standard, QM-173, (μ W cm⁻² nm⁻¹)

D = Recorder deflection for BRF-1

G = Amplifier setting for BRF-1

τ = Transmittance of screen used with BRF-1

 D_{g} = Recorder deflection for QM-173

 G_{Q} = Amplifier setting for QM-173

 τ_{c} = Transmittance of screen used with QM-173

The printout is supplemented by a plot of 2 vs λ as can be seen in Figure 2.

* One set consisting of a complete scan of each source over the entire spectral range 0.25 μ - 2.5 μ

However, it should be noted that although the resulting curve gives a true representation of the continuum, a true representation of the spectral emission lines is impractical. Since line widths vary considerably, especially when the source is operated at very high pressures, the lines are arbitrarily shown in one of three ways -- namely, as plotted by the particular instrument, as triangles of arbitrary base, or as rectangles of arbitrary base. For most of our work, the first method is used for best representing the data since most of the line sources examined contain spectral lines which are relatively broad or which tend to extend into overlapping bands and also since this method affords greater case in the reduction of the data.

IV. Photoelectric Filter Spectroradiometer (Instrumentation)

The photoelectric filter spectroradiometer which is shown diagramatically in figure 3 is built around a set of 36 narrow band-pass interference filters which are mounted at 10° intervals on an aluminum disk and which can be rotated by a 36-position T.V. antenna rotor to any one of the 36 positions. A spring and cam arrangement insures that each filter can be positioned directly in front of the detector. A particular filter can be set in position by merely setting a dial to the corresponding filter setting.

Two detectors, an RCA 1P28 photomultiplier and a PbS cell, are mounted on an adjustable table so that by means of an adjustable screw either detector can alternately be brought into proper horizontal position after the dual detector housing is mounted and adjusted for correct vertical positioning.

While it is not absolutely necessary to use an integrating sphere with this instrument, its use is recommended since small errors due to variations in detector surface sensitivity and small errors in determining the true optical distance from the source to detector may occur. A 4" diameter BaSO $_4$ coated integrating sphere having a 3/4" diameter entrance aperture and a 1/2" diameter exit aperture has accordingly been incorporated into the instrument.

In order to eliminate stray radiation, the entire system is enclosed in a light-tight box. Again, to facilitate measurements on the source under investigation and the standard of spectral irradiance, the entire set-up is mounted on an optical bench (lathe bed) and arranged for rapid interchange of position between the two sources.

The electronics employed with the filter set-up along with the read out system, light shield and attenuating screens are identical to those used with the prism spectroradiometer. However, a duplicate chopper is required since the chopper itself is an integral part of both systems.

V. Photoelectric Filter Spectroradiometer (Measurements)

Although the spectral band-passes of the interference filters are relatively narrow as shown in Table 2 for filters representative of various portions of the

spectrum, it is necessary to determine the "effective wavelength" for each filter-detector-source combination. From a knowledge of the spectral transmittance of the filter, the relative spectral response of the detector and the relative spectral energy distribution of the source, the effective wavelength $\lambda_{\rm eff}$ can be calculated through the use of the following equation:

$$\lambda_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\int_{\lambda_{I}}^{\lambda_{2}} R(\lambda) \ \tau(\lambda) \ E_{\lambda} \ \lambda \ d\lambda}{\int_{\lambda_{I}}^{\lambda_{2}} R(\lambda) \ \tau(\lambda) \ E_{\lambda} \ d\lambda}$$
(2)

where

 λ_{eff} = effective wavelength

 $R(\lambda)$ = relative responsivity of detector (V/(W cm⁻²nm⁻¹)

 $\tau(\lambda)$ = spectral transmittance of interference filter

 E_{λ} = relative spectral irradiance of source (W/cm²nm)

 $\lambda = wavelength$

The limits of integration λ_1 , and λ_2 , are taken as the wavelength of 0.1% transmittance.

In most cases the effective wavelength of the standard lamp-filter-detector combination is very nearly equal to that of the unknown source-filter-detector combination throughout the continuum whereas in the vicinity of strong emission lines these differences in $\lambda_{\mbox{eff}}$ for each source may be significant. However, once the effective wavelength for a particular type of source (filter-detector-source combination) such as a xenon arc lamp has been determined, it is not essential that $\lambda_{\mbox{eff}}$ be redetermined for other xenon lamps since any differences between the relative energy distribution of the lamps would have to be radical in order to detect any change in $\lambda_{\mbox{eff}}$. In tables 3A and 3B are shown the effective wavelengths for a number of filters when used in conjunction with various sources over the photomultiplier spectral range (Table 3A) and when used over the PbS spectral range (Table 3B).

In practice, measurements with the filter spectroradiometer are made with the standard of spectral irradiance at a distance of 50 cm from the entrance port of the sphere. The signal-to-noise ratio when looking at the standard lamp is at least 100 or better at the various wavelengths. The irradiance of the unknown source is compared directly to that of the standard by alternately allowing the filter spectroradiometer to view one source and then the other for each wavelength of interest. The spectral irradiance of the unknown source is given by the following relationship:

$$E' (\lambda eff)' = \frac{R_x}{R_{std}} \lambda eff$$
 (3)

where

 $E'_{(\lambda eff)'} = spectral irradiance at (\lambda eff)' for the unknown source$

 $E_{\lambda\,\text{eff}}$ = spectral irradiance at $\lambda\,\text{eff}$ for the standard lamp

R = detector response for unknown

 R_{s+d} = detector response for standard

The computer printout for a 2500-watt krypton are when compared to standard QM-173 is shown in Table 4. The parameters E_2 , E_1 , etc., are identical to those stated in equation 1. However, the irradiance values E_2 , should be plotted as a function of the correct effective wavelength, λ eff, rather than the nominal wavelength, λ (Column 1, Table 4).

VI. Correlation of Prism Spectroradiometric with Photoelectric Filter Spectroradiometric Results

The spectral irradiances of a number of sources have been measured by using both the prism and filter spectroradiometers and the correlation of the results on a few of the sources measured is shown in Figures 4-10. In all cases, the solid line represents the spectral irradiance as determined through the use of the prism spectroradiometer and the circles are representative of the spectral irradiances as determined with the filter spectroradiometer. The figures are divided into two parts (A and B) with the A section showing the spectral irradiance of the source from 0.25 μ to 0.75 μ and the B sections from 0.7 μ to 2.5 μ . Since Figures 4, 5, and 6 are representative of continuous sources, the A sections of these figures have been given two ordinate scales; namely, 0 to 1.8 $\mu\rm W$ cm $^{-2}$ nm $^{-1}$ from 250 nm to about 340 nm and 0 to 70 $\mu\rm W$ cm $^{-2}$ nm $^{-1}$ from about 340 nm to 750 nm.

As shown in Figures 4-6, the agreement between the two methods of measurement is very good, the difference being less than 1% in most cases, and the largest difference being about 3%.

When high pressure arc sources are measured, the general agreement of the results between the two methods of measurement is not as good as the agreement for the continuous sources. The results, nevertheless, are encouraging. In Figures 7-10 are shown the spectral irradiances of various high pressure arcs which are representative of the sources commonly used in a number of solar simulators.

In figures 7A and 7B the filter results for the majority of wavelengths on a 2500-watt high pressure xenon arc fall within a couple of percent of the curve derived via the prism instrument. However, there is a 7% discrepancy at 260 nm and a 5% discrepancy at 290 nm. The agreement between the two methods is surprisingly good in the spectral region 0.8μ to 1.5μ where a number of emission bands are present.

In figures 8 to 10 are shown the spectral irradiances of a 2500-watt high pressure HgXe arc and two 2500-watt high pressure krypton arcs. The

fact that the correlation of results for the krypton arcs are not as good as the correlation of results for the menon arc can be attributed primarily to the instability of the krypton arcs.

It should be noted that in the majority of cases in the IR past 1.0 micron, the spectral band-passes of the interference filters are narrower than the band-pass of the monochromator. In the UV and visible, the situation is reversed. This effect is quite noticeable in areas where the filters transmit at wavelengths of strong line emission or if they transmit at wavelengths between two lines that are relatively close to each other. For example, in Figure 8A, the filter set-up gives lower values at the 365 nm, 405 nm and 546 nm emission lines since their resolution is not as good as that of the monochromator. In the IR at 1.1μ , 1.3μ , and 1.5μ (see Figure 8B), the monochromator gives higher values than the filter set-up since these wavelengths are situated between strong emission lines. In the first case, the monochromator values would be more nearly correct, whereas in the second case, the filter values would better represent the actual irradiance of the source.

VII. Concluding Remarks

The close correlation of the spectral irradiances of the sources examined through the use of both the prism spectroradiometer and the photoelectric filter spectroradiometer suggests that repeated spectral energy measurements of solar simulators by using the monochromator method is not always essential. After the spectral irradiance of the solar simulator has been carefully determined by means of the more elaborate prism spectroradiometer, a simple photoelectric filter set-up can be used as the sole instrumentation for periodically checking the irradiance at as many wavelengths as desired.

Efforts are presently being made toward setting up a simple thermo-electric filter spectroradiometer to obtain a third "check" on the photo-electric filter and prism spectroradiometric results. In this case, a "cavity" type 18 thermopile calibrated in total volts per watt output by means of an N.B.S. tungsten filament lamp standard of total irradiance will be used in conjunction with a set of relatively wide band-pass filters.

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BRF-1 VS QM-173 UV AND VIS

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Table 2. Filter Band-passes

<u>λ (nm)</u>	Band-pass (nm)
260	20
290	16
360	12
436	5
500	8
600	12
800	19
1000	17
1200	14
1500	14
1800	17
2400	50

Table 3A. Effective Wavelengths of Filters when used with a Photomultiplier and Several Sources

$^{\lambda}w$	$\lambda_{ t Kr}$	$^{\lambda}$ Xe	$^{\lambda}$ HgXe
296.6	294.7	294.8	298.2
361.3	361.4	361.4	363.9
391.3	391.0	391.2	390.7
437.0	436.9	437.0	438.1
451.5	451.4	451.5	451.0
550.1	550.2	550.1	549.1
579.0	579.0	579.0	579.2
640.4	640.4	640.3	640.4
680.1	680.0	680.0	680.3

Table 3B. Effective Wavelengths of Filters when used with a PbS Cell and Several Sources

$^{\lambda}w$	$^{\lambda}$ Kr	$^{\lambda}$ X e	$^{\lambda}$ HgX e
640.8	640.8	640.7	640.8
681.6	681.5	681.4	681.8
699.1	699.1	699.0	699.0
799.6	800.2	800.1	799.7
900.7	900.1	900.6	900.4
1001.6	1001.1	1001.2	1001.8
1193.9	1194.3	1194.0	1194.1
1299.6	1300.0	1299.2	1299.6
1697.8	1698.4	1697.8	1698.9

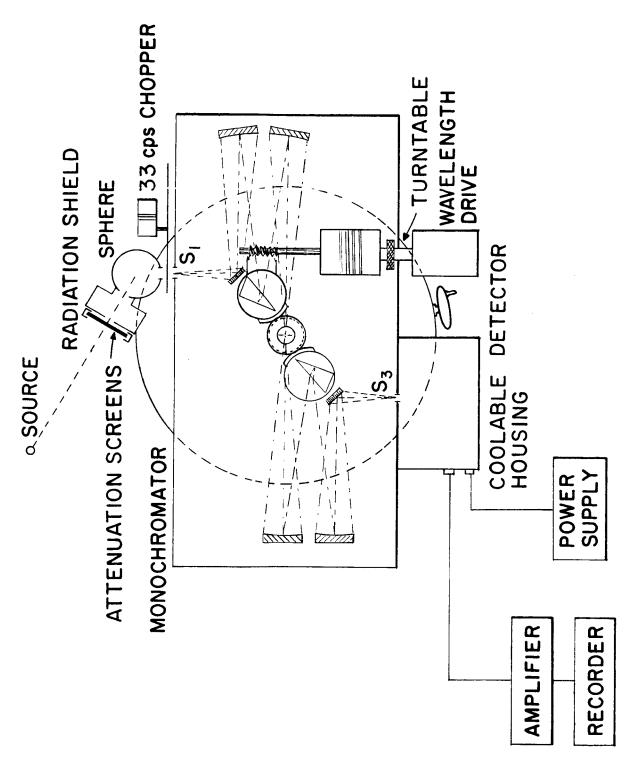
Table 4 2500-WATT KRYPTON NO. 2 VS QM-173 UV AND VIS AND IR

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Legends to Illustrations

- Figure 1 Optical layout of monochromator and block diagram of prism spectroradiometer.
- Figure 2 Computer plot of the spectral irradiance of source BRF-1.
- Figure 3 Block diagram of photoelectric filter spectroradiometer.
- Figure 4A Spectral irradiance of 1000-watt Quartz Bromine No.1 from 250 nm to 750 nm.
- Figure 4B Spectral irradiance of 1000-watt Quartz Bromine No.1 from 0.7 μ to 2.5 μ .
- Figure 5A Spectral irradiance of 1000-watt Frosted Quartz Bromine No.1 from 250 nm to 750 nm.
- Figure 5B Spectral irradiance of 1000-watt Frosted Quartz Bromine No.1 from 0.7µ to 2.5µ.
- Figure 6A Spectral irradiance of 500-watt Quartz Iodine in aluminum reflector from 250 nm to 750 nm.
- Figure 6B Spectral irradiance of 500-watt Quartz Iodine in aluminum reflector from 0.7 μ to 2.5 μ .
- Figure 7A Spectral irradiance of 2500-watt Xenon arc No.1 from 250 nm to 750 nm.
- Figure 7B Spectral irradiance of 2500-watt Xenon arc No.1 from 0.7μ to 2.5μ .
- Figure 8A Spectral irradiance of 2500-watt HgXe arc No.1 from 250 nm to 750 nm.
- Figure 8B Spectral irradiance of 2500-watt HgXe arc No.1 from 0.7μ to 2.5μ .
- Figure 9A Spectral irradiance of 2500-watt Krypton arc No.1 from 250 nm to 750 nm.
- Figure 9B Spectral irradiance of 2500-watt Krypton arc No.1 from 0.74 to 2.54.
- Figure 10A Spectral irradiance of 2500-watt Krypton arc No.2 from 250 nm to 750 nm.
- Figure 10B Spectral irradiance of 2500-watt Krypton arc No.2 from 0.7μ to 2.5μ.

PRISM SPECTRORADIOMETER



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POWER SUPPLY METER RADIATION SHIELD 33cps CHOPPER AMPLIFIER ATTENUATION SCREENS SPHERE Pbs IP28 STANDARD OF SPECTRAL IRRADIANCE DUAL DETECTOR HOUSING PHOTOELECTRIC FILTER SPECTRORADIOMETER ROTOR ROTOR CONTROL FILTER DISK LIGHT - TIGHT BOX RADIATION SHIELD OPTICAL BENCH TEST SOURCE

Figure 3

